was caused to 1.80 lakh houses.

(d) About Rs. 2100 crore.

(e) to (h) In response to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking assistance of Rs. 610.65 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR), an assistance of Rs. 55.35 crore as approved by NCRC was released to the State. No further assistance is to be released to the State from the NFCR for that cyclone.

Disaster Preparedness

1520. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in the Hindustan Times dated 22nd February, 2000 captioned "Need for disaster preparedness stressed" as coping with rising disasters varying from epidemics to road accidents, perennial droughts and floods etc. would be the "greatest humanitarian challenge" for the country in the new millennium according to the Oxfam's Indian Disasters Report;

(b) if so, what are the main/salient features of the above mentioned Report; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The above news-item relates to the Oxfam's "India Disasters Report", which refers to the preparation of a comprehensive disaster response and mitigation policy, developing an appropriate legal and administrative framework to implement it with the involvement of Government, voluntary sector, industry and people etc.

(c) Institutionalised arrangements within a broad policy framework already exist in the country for Natural Disaster Management which are reviewed and updated from time to time.

Negative growth of Agricultural Product

1521. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: